

**Town of Arlington  
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Minutes of 9/19/06, 7:15 to 10:00 PM, Town Hall Annex 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Submitted by Laura Wiener

**Members and Associates Present:** Ed Starr (partial), Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Laura Wiener, Lieut. James McHugh, Chuck Pappas, Howard Muise, Erik Moore (partial), Scott Smith, Jeff Maxtutis, John Sanchez, Mike Rademacher, Guillermo Bahamon

1. Public Comments. None.
2. School Zones. Motion proposed by Jeff, “for the Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee to work with the schools to evaluate each of the elementary schools and middle school for the purpose of implementing School Zones, if warranted, according to the standards and practices outlined in Section 7G, Official Standards for School Zones as required by Chapter 90 Section 17 of the General Laws, and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways”. Moved by Scott, seconded by John, approved unanimously. Any changes in speed limits will have to be approved by the Board of Selectmen.
3. Speeding on Crosby. Will be addressed in context of all Bishop School traffic issues. Mike will meet shortly with Bishop principal. Lieut. McHugh wants to attend. Mike will draft a letter to Selectmen for next TAC meeting to inform Selectmen.
4. Town Day Report. There was a lot of interest in Zipcar, and not much feedback re. Mass. Ave. Corridor.
5. Summer Street update. John reported that Mass Highway is finishing up paving, and will not open up any more of the road this season.
6. Summer/Brattle/Hospital Road intersection and signal timing. Discussion with EA Fish scheduled for later in the week. Mass. Highway will not implement any changes without Town approval. Town consultant, Fay, Spofford and Thorndike (Gary Hebert) will assist Town and TAC in evaluating project.
7. Administration
  - Minutes of 8/15/06 meeting were approved unanimously
  - Ed reviewed Board of Selectmen Requests list.
  - Outstanding voted action—Library Way, request DPW to trim tree branches and trim/remove hedges on traffic island.
  - Wilbur/Wollaston—Guillermo gave Ed draft for review
  - Lockeland and Mass. Ave –Special thanks to Joe Cahill for taking on this major project.
  - Thorndike Field—Trees need trimming back. Need to establish Town property line.
  - Quincy Street—Elisabeth requested that crosswalk
  - signs be moved.
  - Wheeler/Dixon—John Sanchez said that his staff went to put up a stop sign on Dixon at Wheeler and there was no good place to put it because the intersection is so

wide. Lieut. McHugh said that Wheeler should be the street to get the stop signs. Chuck, who did the original study, said that Dixon was chosen to be consistent with the other roads, and there is a greater flow on Wheeler. Jeff suggested that a “Stop Ahead” sign might help. Jim said that, ideally, the geometry should be changed, though it might not be worth a major investment based on traffic numbers. Ed suggested we review it again in October after reviewing traffic data.

- Stop & Shop traffic signal. Planning Director Kevin O’Brien sent an e-mail to Ed regarding a concern of the Redevelopment Board that the traffic signal at Mass. Ave. and Highland Ave. heavily favored cars exiting from the Stop & Shop lot. Committee members, from their observations, thought the signal was working properly. Ed will pass information back to Kevin. Roger Hain e-mail. Jim has spoken to him. Scott will transmit info. regarding crosswalks.
8. Symmes Special Permit Transportation Requirements. John will give list of requirements to Building Inspector.
  9. Oak Hill Speed Hump. John sent abutters letter asking for feedback. Jim requested that John notify the Fire Department because of emergency vehicle use of Oak Hill Rd. Jim feels that the speeds on that street do not warrant a speed hump.
  10. Bikeway Crossings. Jim said there is a major problem with bike riders not stopping at street crossings. Other ideas mentioned: a gate to make bikers maneuver through and slow down, a Yield sign or an additional stop sign, pavement markers, cone at crosswalk to control drivers rather than bikers. Scott will discuss with ABAC, get recommendations, and suggest forming a joint TAC and ABAC working group.
  11. Downing Square. John just got estimates to do work and will distribute something before the next meeting to working group (Elisabeth, Ed, Mike, Jeff). Elisabeth is preparing to mail notice to area residents, and has been gathering e-mail comments from neighbors. John will find out if we need to notify Town of Lexington re possible one way on Westminster.
  12. Mass. Ave. Corridor Phase 1 Update—The ARB requested to be involved, particularly in streetscape design. Working on RFP (Ed, Scott, John, Kevin, Laura). DPW will be taking the lead. Ed will send email to ARB inviting them to participate in the working group.
  13. Webster Street parking. Jim would like to see a broad look at the entire area. Suggested that it become part of the East Arlington parking study. Franklin Street should be added as well. The working group will be Jeff, Scott, and Howard.
  14. Pleasant/Irving intersection. John said that his department has just taken responsibility for all Town traffic signals as of July 1 and they don’t yet know their budget. Jim added that a traffic engineer’s report is needed to change signal. Jeff added that BSC has already looked at it and perhaps BSC could finish up the process. Jeff will contact him.
  15. Safe Transport to Schools. Next school to be studied is Bishop. On track to start process in October. May have to re-look at Hardy School because some things not going as planned.

16. Measurement Program. Jim wants to prioritize certain areas for measuring traffic volume and speed. Ed will give Jim hard copy data done for Symmes redevelopment from Howard Stein Hudson. A general request for electronic data that Jim can add to his database. Jeff will contact Accudata to see if we can get past data they have done in the town..
17. Trucks on Jason Street. E-mail received. Changes to truck routing has to be approved by Mass Highways after doing a study. Ed will respond to request.
18. Town News. Laura noted that Ed and Scott mentioned to ARB some zoning changes regarding parking, and ARB was very receptive to TAC input on these matters. Laura will work with Howard on draft changes for October meeting. Development proposed for Taylor Rental site has been withdrawn. John reported that the Town is about to make an offer to a new Town Engineer. Elisabeth asked about the work being done at Gray and Endicott. John responded that this is a very long crossing, and they are looking at ideas such as an island to improve safety. At Summer Street and Oak Hill Drive crosswalk improvements are in place but compliance is not great. Jim will look into it. Lastly, Paul Revere Road and Park Avenue was noted to be a problematic intersection.
19. Meeting adjourned at 10:00.

Handouts:

Ed's Meeting Package:

Agenda, TAC Projects, Rotation List, BoS Request Status, Outstanding Voted Actions, Correspondence, Status of Symmes Actions, Suggested Measurements  
Fall 2006

Laura – Minutes from 8/15 Meeting

Elisabeth – Downing Square draft of mailing

Scott – MUTCD for Stop and Yield Signs re. Bike Path